

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 12-22 are in the case.

I. SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to incorporate customary headings, including a brief description of the drawings. These amendments conform to those made in the parent application, Serial No. 09/402,471, now U.S. Patent 6,713,278. In addition, an abstract has been presented based on allowed claim 12. No new matter is entered.

II. ALLOWED CLAIMS

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 12-22 are allowable as written. In light of this indication, and in order to expedite prosecution, claims 23-28 have been cancelled without prejudice to the possibility of pursuing that subject matter in a separate continuing application.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS AND REJECTIONS

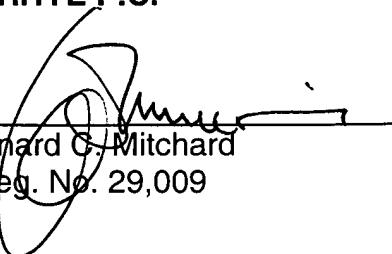
Claims 23-28 have been objected to or rejected for reasons detailed in paragraphs 4 through 8 of the outstanding Action. As noted above, claims 23-28 have been cancelled without prejudice. In light of this, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections is believed to be in order. Such action is respectfully requested.

BOUVIER et al
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Favorable action on this application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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